



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

February 2016 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held Thursday, February 18, 2016, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall community room, lower level. The February meeting will feature extended show & tell. Dues for 2016 are due and payable.

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road).

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: John Bleidorn
Sgt. at Arms: Jeff Gaffke
Trustee '14-'16: Leon Saryan
Librarian: Joe Paonessa

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: Lee Hartz
Trustee '15-'17: Tom Dallmann
Trustee '16-'18: Gary Bieringer
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February Coin of the Month: This month we have an encapsulated 1969-S cameo proof silver clad half dollar. The coin is conservatively graded PR65, but your editor thinks it rates at least a 68. The coin also seems to have a slight die rotation. The starting price for bidding is just \$8 for this exceptional coin.



February 2016 MNS President's Message

The year is progressing along nicely and before you know it the spring season of coin shows will be in full swing. I am looking forward to escaping some of the winter doldrums and getting out to the Racine Coin Show later this month. The February meeting will likely be a quick one since we do not have a formal activity planned, so please bring along something extra for that evening's show and tell segment. We should have more than enough time and it is always interesting and educational to see what other member collectors have to share.

It appeared from the show and tell portion of our last meeting that a good number of our members were able to venture down to Florida last month for the annual FUN Show. It certainly sounded like a great year for the show what with all of the auction hoopla that hit the mainstream media press from this year's Heritage sale. I still have never had a chance to make it down to the FUN Show, but I am hoping that in the next couple of years I will be able to squeeze it into my calendar.

With the exception of VP Jim H., all of the newly elected officers and board members were sworn in at the January meeting. Hopefully we will catch up with Jim at one of the next meetings. We also received applications for membership from Dave Mongin and Chris Kantac, so please plan to vote on their approval at the February meeting.

Looking ahead at the calendar, please plan for an April 28th (Thursday) bus trip to the Central States Coin Show in Schaumburg this year. More details will follow once the reservation is approved and confirmed by the membership. Demand in interest will determine the size of bus to take, and we will also probably open it up to members of the SSCC and Waukesha Coin Club for a nominal fee.

Thanks to our new Secretary John B., the Club is considering the purchase of a new laptop that can be used for meeting purposes, the Scout Clinic, and other recordkeeping needs. This is excellent news and will provide us with a much needed upgrade from our current technological state. With the very inexpensive prices of some very powerful laptops there is no reason why the Club should not have a computer of its very own.

Just another reminder, take a look at the calendar and consider volunteering to bring meeting refreshments. Also, please pay your \$10 dues for regular membership so that you can remain in good standing. Thanks and hope to see you at the February meeting!

Happy Collecting, Justin J. Perrault, masters1122@yahoo.com, 262.785.7663



January 21, 2016: Neil Shafer (r.) swears in the 2016 MNS officers (l to r.) Jeff Gaffke, Lee Hartz, Justin Perrault, John Bleidorn, and Gary Bieringer

MN\$ 2016

Schedule

Monthly meetings in 2016 are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 21:	Officer Inductions
Feb 18:	Open
March 17:	North vs. South Trivia
April 21:	Educational Video Viewing
April 28:	Potential CSNS Bus Trip
May 19:	Spring Auction
June 16:	Open
July 21:	NO MEETING
Aug 18:	Open
Sept 15:	Robert Leonard: Medieval Military Coinage Presentation
Oct 20:	Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing
Nov 17:	Autumn Auction; Election Slate
Dec 15:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2016 are \$10. Please pay at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.785.7663 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2016 Numismatic Events

February 28	Racine Coin Club Show
March 13	Waukesha Coin Club Show New Berlin Ale House 16000 W. Cleveland Ave. 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Mar 31-Apr 2	MNS/SSCC sponsored NOW show Airport Crowne Plaza 6401 S. 13 th Street Noon-6; 10-6; 10-4
April 2	MNS Boy Scout Clinic at Crowne Plaza, Volunteers needed
April 10	Madison Coin Club Show Sheraton Hotel 706 John Nolan Drive Hours: 9 AM-4 PM
April 27-30	CSNS Show in Schaumburg
October 1	CSNS Board Meeting at Hilton Garden Inn by airport (time TBD)
October 2	MNS Coin Show at Serb Hall

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Dave Herrewig
Feb:	Tom Dallmann
Mar:	Justin Perrault
Apr:	Don Kaminski
May:	Stu Caddell
Jun:	Open
Jul:	N/A
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Holiday Party

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

January 21, 2016

President Justin Perrault called the 965th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:01pm. There were 29 members and 1 guest, Dave Mongin, in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Officers for 2016 Justin Perrault (pres.), John Bleidorn (secy.), Lee Hartz (treas.), Jeff Gaffke (sgt. at arms) and Gary Bieringer (trustee) were inducted by senior member Neil Shafer. Door prizes were won by: Leon Adraktas, Dave Hunsicker, Josh Whitehall, Gary Bieringer, Darryl Luedtke, Justin Perrault, Pam Talmadge, Bruce Bartelt, Tom Ralston, Don Kaminski, Bob Burlingame, Dave Mongin, Steve Jacobsen, Susan Simon, Peter Jacobsohn, Tom Casper, Tom Dahlmann, Stu Caddell, James Kubley, and Paul Kromm.

Coin of the Month: Guest Dave Mongin won the coin of the month, a Belgian Euro 8-coin set with a bid of \$17.50.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Hartz reported that December showed receipts of \$215.00 and \$1,656.67 in disbursements for a negative cash flow of \$1,441.67. Last year's MNS show had a \$1,435.81 profit, including about \$500 of which was raffle ticket proceeds.

Correspondence: Central States Centinel, a card from the Korosec family, a postcard from Jerry Panfil, a moving notice for Bob Henson, and Central States exhibit award sponsorship appreciation letter from CSNS officer Jack Huggins, were received.

Membership: Long time members Glen Goethel and Bob Korosec were noted as having passed away. Chris Kantac (Ken's son) & Dave Mongin applied for membership.

Newsletter: Mailing address changes should be submitted to the editor. We are unable to find an accurate mailing address for member Bob Bauter.

Upcoming Shows: Feb 21 Oshkosh coin show, Feb 28 Racine coin show.

Laptop Purchase Discussion: Discussion occurred about the hardware & software requirements of the club for a new laptop purchase to be finalized at next month's meeting and voted on.

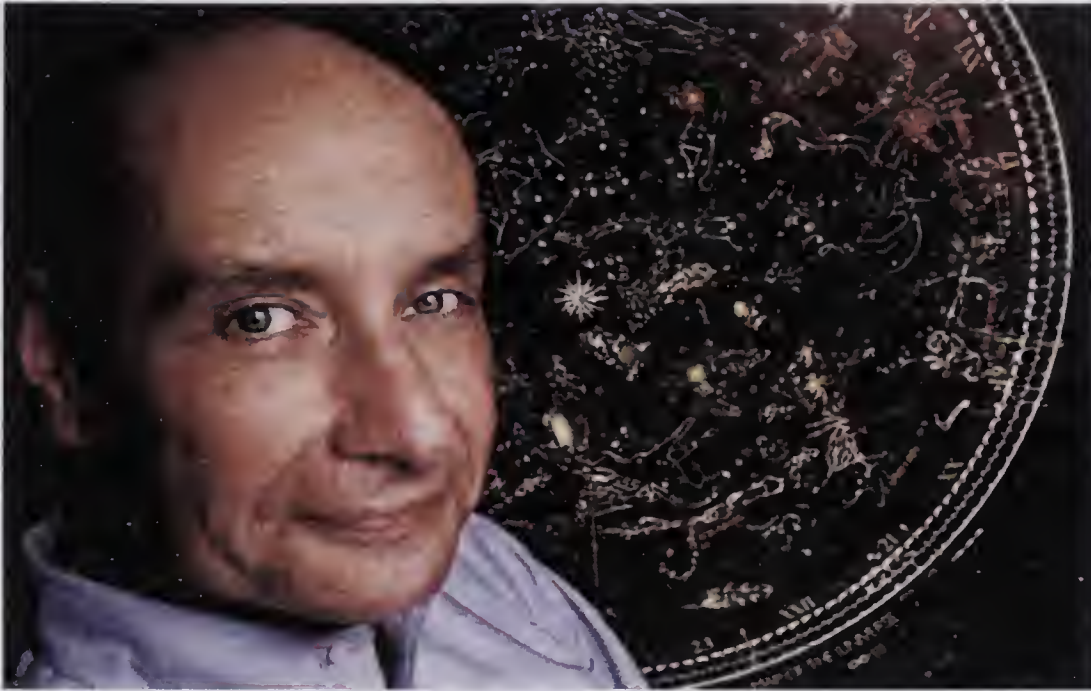
The January meeting program was entertained by exhibitors: Bruce Bartelt-Architectural medals, Neil Shafer-Political Tickets, Jeff Gaffke-Poland & Spain silver, French bank note, Leon Saryan-BBC lighting \$1 million dollar fantasy note, Darrell Luedtke-Australian wooden coin auctions, Tom Dallmann-FUN show, Tom Snyder-Nationals, Tom Casper-Dancing Bear Bookstore and Scrip, Peter Jacobsohn-WI soldier commission signed by Gov. James Lewis.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by John Bleidorn

Astronomer from UW Thinks his Star of Bethlehem Theory is Gold

By [Meg Jones](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 2, 2016



This coin from Syria depicting Aries gave astronomer Michael Molnar a clue to the possible Star of Bethlehem. When a dealer at a New York coin show showed astronomer Michael Molnar an ancient Roman coin minted in Syria that featured a picture of Zeus on one side and Aries the ram on the other, he bought it for \$50.

A few months later, Molnar noticed a star on the coin, which was minted in A.D. 13. An earlier version had been issued by Quirinius, the governor of Syria who's mentioned in the Gospel of Luke as ordering a census at the time of the birth of Jesus. And so began a quest by the University of Wisconsin-Madison alum to see if a most unlikely source — his own coin collection — held a clue to the identity of the Star of Bethlehem that drew the three wise men to see the infant king, an event known as Epiphany, which this year is celebrated Sunday in many churches.

Molnar collects ancient coins featuring astronomical or astrological symbols. While researching a story for a coin collecting magazine, he learned that astronomer Claudius Ptolemy, who lived in Egypt in the 2nd century A.D., wrote that Judea was ruled by the constellation Aries.

"I thought: What could have attracted stargazers to the birth of a king? I knew from reading ancient texts that these ancient stargazers watched for Jupiter and its relationship with the moon," Molnar said in a phone interview from his New Jersey home. At the time, planets were called stars. "They felt that when Jupiter was close to the moon, Jupiter's powers to create kings were strongest," Molnar said. "There was one particular event they were trying to calculate — when the moon would get so close it would pass in front of Jupiter. This was considered magical in ancient times."

Molnar's research, which he published in a book ["The Star of Bethlehem: The Legacy of the Magi,"](#) led him to believe the star that attracted the Magi to Jerusalem was likely Jupiter eclipsed by Earth's moon — known as a double occultation — while it was located within the constellation of Aries the Ram.

The actual year and date of Jesus' birth are not known; biblical historians most often estimate it was sometime between 6 B.C. and 4 B.C. The Magi, who may have been astronomers or astrologers, told King Herod in Jerusalem that they saw a star in the east at its rising, according to the Gospel of Matthew.

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him," the Gospel says. Herod sent them to Bethlehem, because he had been told by chief priests and teachers that Christ would be born there. "When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was," the Gospel says. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly great joy."

'A magical moment'

In the course of a year, as the planets revolve around the sun, Jupiter gets closer to the sun and eventually disappears. When it emerges on the other side — in the east — it can be seen from Earth. "Ancient people thought this was a magical moment and the powers of the planet were at their maximum," Molnar said. Molnar checked the dates of an eclipse of Jupiter by Earth's moon when Jupiter was in the east and the constellation of Aries the Ram was close, then referenced them against the years when scholars believe Jesus was born. Only one date popped up: April 17, 6 B.C.

When Molnar saw that he got chills. "I didn't sleep. I knew as an astronomy historian I had the best answer for the Star of Bethlehem. I wasn't a modern physicist coming up with modern ideas. I was trying to explain this in believable ancient ideas," he said.

Whether Jupiter eclipsed by the moon is actually the star heralding the birth of Jesus is certainly open to speculation. But it's a fascinating theory.

The Star of Bethlehem is "the cosmic holy grail of the sky," said Bob Bonadurer, director of the Daniel M. Soref Planetarium at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Every year at Christmas, visitors to the museum's planetarium ask about the star's possible identity and location. There are many interpretations — some say it could have been a comet or supernova or possibly a conjunction of planets.

"I still think there's a big question mark and it's nothing against (Molnar's) research, it's that we just don't know," Bonadurer said. "All an astronomer like myself or Michael (Molnar) can offer is possibilities based on what we know of the time of Jesus' birth. It's still a great journey to explore."

A separate link to history

Molnar lived in Madison for 31/2 years while he worked on his doctorate in astronomy at UW. He arrived in 1967 at a time when the campus was a hotbed of anti-war protests. His office was on the sixth floor of Sterling Hall and had it not been for a broken vending machine, he likely would have been working in the wee hours of Aug. 24, 1970. Molnar usually arrived at his office in the afternoon, worked all night and returned home early in the morning. On the night of Aug. 23 he was hungry and walked down to a vending machine on the fourth floor to buy a candy bar. But it jammed and he lost his money. Still hungry, he decided to leave earlier than normal.

At 3:42 a.m. a stolen van parked next to the building and packed with 2,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil exploded. The target was the Army Mathematics Research Center on the second through fourth floors.

Molnar's office on the sixth floor was filled with a small personal library of astronomy books, photos from astronomical observations he made at the W.M. Keck Center for Surface and Interface Imaging in Arizona, and his dissertation research. In the explosion, a pipe lighter in his office ignited, and everything in Molnar's office went up in flames. "In the newscasts afterward I saw flames coming out of my office and I thought, 'Oh no, I'm done,'" Molnar recalled.

Molnar didn't know the researcher who was killed in the blast and felt fortunate that although he lost part of his research, he wasn't hurt. Parts of his burned dissertation were found blown out of the building in the days and weeks later.

"You didn't Xerox everything you did back in those days, it was expensive. I did give my adviser some data, God bless, and with the charred remains I was able to recover a lot. It did set me back," said Molnar. "I came back in January to defend it. I think the faculty was very supportive and took into consideration a lot."

After earning his doctorate in astronomy at UW, Molnar performed pioneering research in the field of magnetic stars by using satellite observations, and served on research teams for several space missions including the Mariner 9 Mars Orbiter. He taught astronomy at Rutgers University.

Today, he lives in New Jersey, and the coin that started his quest for the Star of Bethlehem hangs on a wall. Visitors don't bring gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they do show interest. "A lot of people who visit me ask to see it," he said.###

2015 Fantasy Numismatics Results

by MNS member Bruce Benoit

2015 was a tough year for coin investors. Bullion prices (gold and silver) trended lower during the year and this undoubtedly had a depressing effect on the numismatic market. We had ten participants in our Fantasy Numismatics 2015 contest. Overall, more participants lost than gained, and on average, the losses were larger. Only two of ten Fantasy Numismatics participants scored a gain. The results are in and here are the main findings:

Summary:

- Only two of ten participants had positive portfolio results
- Five members tied for third place with \$0 net profit (no loss or gain)
- Three members lost money, with one member losing \$2300 (9.2% loss)
- First Place: Tom Casper, \$400 gain (a 1.6% gain).
- Second Place: Jim Heinrich, \$200 gain
- Third place: Justin Perrault, Josh Whitehall, Don Kaminski, Tom Dallmann, Dave Hunsicker, all of whom broke even.
- The best coin gain of those selected was a 1921 half dollar in MS-60 that gained \$450, and the second best gain was a 1916-D mercury dime in MS-60 that gained \$400.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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Sunday, December 6, 2015 17A

Colombia announces huge sunken treasure

Associated Press

Cartagena, Colombia — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos hailed Saturday the discovery of a Spanish galleon that went down off the South American nation's coast more than 300 years ago with what may be the world's largest sunken treasure.

At a news conference in the colonial port city of Cartagena, Santos said the exact location of the San Jose galleon, and how it was discovered with the help of an international team of experts, was a state secret that he would personally safeguard. The San Jose originally sank somewhere in the wide area off Colombia's Baru peninsula, south of Cartagena.

While no humans have yet to reach the wreckage site, the government said autonomous underwater vehicles have gone there and brought back photos of dolphin-stamped bronze cannons in a well-preserved state that leave no doubt to the ship's identity.

The discovery is the latest chapter in an ongoing saga

that began three centuries ago, on June 8, 1708, when the Spanish ship with 600 people aboard sank to the bottom of the sea as it was trying to outrun a fleet of British warships. It is believed to have been carrying 11 million gold coins and jewels from then Spanish-controlled colonies that could be worth billions of dollars if ever recovered.

The ship, which maritime experts consider the holy grail of Spanish colonial shipwrecks, has remained submerged ever since off the coast of Cartagena even as a legal battle has raged in the United States, Colombia and Spain over who owns the rights to the sunken treasure.

Santos didn't mention any salvage company's claim during his presentation, but the government said the ship had been found Nov. 27 in a never-before-referenced location through the use of new meteorological and underwater mapping studies.

He said any recovery effort would take years but would be guided by a desire to protect national interests.



Milwaukee Numismatic Society's

Fantasy Numismatics 2016

By Bruce Benoit

The concept:

Did you ever want to make a substantial coin purchase for investment purposes, but the only thing stopping you was your available funds to invest? This fun and educational program will enable you to spend up to \$25,000.00 in fantasy dollars on coins, and after a year's time you will find out how you did with the selections you made in your coin investment portfolio. Participants will select coins that they feel will increase in price better than others. This is a fun way to learn how you would do if you had the guts and funds to actually do it, and the challenge of competing against your numismatic buddies.

Rules:

1. All portfolio selections must be only **regular issue coins** produced by the U.S. Mint, and be listed in the January 2016 issue of Coin's magazine. (NO COMMEMS, SETS or BULLION)
2. You **can** select up to ten (10) coins, in any listed grade you would like.
3. You **cannot** exceed the \$25,000.00 limit.
4. You **cannot** change your portfolio during the year's time.
5. Portfolios will be added up using the January 2017 issue of Coin's magazine.

To participate, use the January 2016 issue of Coin's magazine price list and portfolio form to select the coins you would like to invest in. Be sure to turn in your portfolio prior to the **deadline** of **9:00 P.M.** (end of the March meeting) **2016**. Portfolios can be given to Leon Saryan to forward to me. You can track your portfolio results with each issue by subscribing to Coin's magazine. Prizes will be awarded to the top performers at the years end, and they will have bragging rights all year!

2016 Coin Investment Portfolio

Name _____

Be sure to include the date, denomination, grade, and cost of each coin.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total Cost \$ _____